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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were previously canceled. Claims 17-26 are now pending. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Claims 17, 22 and 23 have been amended to fully define acronyms used, and to address minor informalities. No new matter is added.

For the reasons that follow, Applicants believe all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 17, 22 and 23 were objected to as containing various informalities, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 17, 22 and 23 as suggested by the Examiner. By the present amendments, Applicants believe the objection has been overcome and respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 17-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Claim 17 has been amended, and Applicants believe the rejection has been overcome. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 17, 25 and 26 were provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 9, 10 and 11 of copending Application Serial No. 09/939,833, for the reasons set forth on pages 3-4 of the Office Action. Without acquiescing in the merits of the rejection, to expedite prosecution, Applicants will file a terminal disclaimer as appropriate in due course.

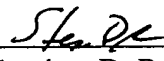
Please note the new attorney docket number (PC19055E/AG0069-04) Applicants wish to use for all future correspondence in connection with this application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding that have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,

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